

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05

AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 4950

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJ: SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE: FIRST AND
SECOND ROUNDS OF TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS (US, UK, USSR),

JUNE 16 AND 17, 1977

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1. SUMMARY: DELEGATIONS OF THE THREE DEPOSITARIES
(US, UK, USSR) OF THE SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY HELD
THEIR FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS OF CONSULTATIONS ON
JUNE 16 AND 17, IN PREPARATION FOR THE JUNE 20 COMMENCE-
MENT OF THE REVIEW CONFERENCE. THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE
(ISSRAELYAN) EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S SATISFACTION
WITH THE TREATY AND ANNOUNCED FIRM USSR OPPOSITION TO

ANY AMENDMENT. NEVERTHELESS THE USSR WILL EXPRESS A READINESS TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW SEABEDS ARMS CONTROL MEASURES AS PART OF AN EVENTUAL NEW AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BY CCD. THE US REP SAID THAT HIS REACTION WAS UNFAVORABLE, AND THAT ASKING CCD TO NEGOTIATE A NEW SEABEDS AGREEMENT WOULD BE SEEN AS A DIVERSION FROM WORK TOWARD A CTB AND A BAN ON CW. HOWEVER, THE US REP STATED THAT IF SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR AMENDING THE SEABEDS TREATY DEVELOPS DURING THE REVIEW, IT MAY BECOME NECESSARY TO REFER SUCH PROPOSALS TO CCD, AS A SAFETY VALVE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DELEGATIONS OF THE US, UK, AND USSR TO THE SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON JUNE 20, HELD THEIR FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS OF CONSULTATIONS ON JUNE 16 AND JUNE 17. THE US REP (SLOSS) AND THE UK REP (ASHE) BEGAN BY EXPRESSING THE BASIC VIEWS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, ALONG THE SAME LINES AS IN THE PRIOR US-UK MEETING (REPORTED SEPTEL). THE SOVIET REP (ISSRAELIAN) STATED THAT THE USSR IS SATISFIED WITH THE TREATY, -AND WOULD BE VERY STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY ATTEMPT TO AMEND IT. NEVERTHELESS THE ORIGINAL SOVIET POSITION DURING TREATY NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN TO CALL FOR COMPLETE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE SEABEDS, AND THUS THE USSR WILL EXPRESS A READINESS TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER SEABEDS MEASURES, CONFIDENTIAL

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AS PART OF A NEW AGREEMENT. ANY SUCH FURTHER MEASURES, THOUGH, ARE NOT THE REVIEW CONFERENCE'S TASK; INSTEAD, THEY COULD BE THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION IN THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (CCD).

3. THE US REP (SLOSS) SAID THAT ASKING CCD TO CONSIDER FURTHER SEABEDS MEASURES COULD BE SEEN AS A DIVERSION, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE HIGH INTEREST IN WORKING TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN AND A CHEMICAL WEAPONS AGREEMENT; HIS REACTION TO THE IDEA WAS UNFAVORABLE. ISSRAELIAN INDICATED THE USSR'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE US IS NOT READY TO NEGOTIATE NEW SEABEDS MEASURES, AND THAT A NEW AGREEMENT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE UNLESS THE US WERE TO CHANGE ITS POSITION. ON THE QUESTION OF AMENDING THE PRESENT TREATY, THOUGH, ALL THREE DEPOSITARIES AGREE THAT THIS WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE REVCON.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 4950

4. ISSRAELIAN CONCURRED WITH US AND UK SUGGESTIONS
TO MAINTAIN A LOW-KEY APPROACH TO TRIPARTITE CONSULTA-
TIONS, AVOIDING THE APPEARANCE OF ATTEMPTING TO DICTATE
TO THE REVCON, SAYING THAT IT WOULD BE VERY UNWISE TO
REPEAT THE UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT CARRIED OUT AT THE
NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE IN 1975.
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STILL ISSRAELIAN URGED THAT AFTER THE FIRST COUPLE OF DAYS OF THE
REVCON, THE UK MIGHT CONSIDER TABLING ITS DRAFT FINAL DDE-
LARATION, EITHER BY ITSELF OR WITH CO-SPONSORS FROM LIKE-
MINDED NON-DEPOSITARY COUNTRIES.

5. THE US AND UK REPS MAINTAINED THEIR PREFERENCE FOR A FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO THE FINAL DECLARATION, KEYING ACTIVE EFFORTS OF THE THREE DEPOSITARY DELEGATIONS TO THE SPECIFIC CONTENT OF THE DEBATE. THE US REP (SLOSS) STATED THAT IF, AS NOW APPEARS UNLIKELY, SERIOUS PROPOSALS FOR TREATY AMENDMENT DO ATTRACT SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT, AND IF EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE THESE PROPOSALS TURN OUT TO BE INNEFFECTIVE, IT WOULD ABOVE ALL BECOME NECESSARY TO AVOID BRING THESE PROPOSALS TO A VOTE IN THE REVCON. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THE BEST WAY TO DISPOSE OF THESE ISSUES MAY BE TO REFER THEM TO CCD FOR CONSIDERATION.

6. THE SOVIET REP (ISSRAELIAN) COMMENTED ON THE INCONGRUITY OF HAVING THE CCD, WHOSE MEMBERSHIP BY NO MEANS CORRESPONDS TO THE LIST OF PARTIES TO THE SEABEDS TREATY, PASS ON SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR TREATY AMENDMENTS. HE STRESSED THAT THE PROCESS OF AMENDMENTS IS ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM CONSIDERATION BY THE REVCON OR BY THE CCD, AND IS SPECIFIED IN THE TREATY ITSELF.

7. SLOSS RESPONDED THAT REFERRING ISSUES TO CCD MAY BECOME NECESSARY AS A SAFETY VALVE, AND THAT THIS IDEA MERELY PARALLELS SOVIET INTEREST IN HAVING THE CCD CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF A NEW AGREEMENT. AS PROVIDED IN THE BRITISH REVISION TO THEIR DRAFT FINAL DECLARATION, PREPARED BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS OF TRIPARTITE

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CONSULTATIONS, A REQUEST TO CCD SHOULD PROBABLY INVOLVE ASKING IT TO EXAMINE PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT WHICH WERE RAISED DURING THE REVCON, WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING THE QUESTION OF AMENDMENTS.

8. ISSRAELIAN REPLIED THAT THAT APPROACH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, AND NOTIFIED THE US AND UK OF YUGOSLAV INTEREST IN CHALLENGING THE TACIT AGREEMENT REACHED DURING THE SESSIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE TO MAKE CANADA CHAIRMAN OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE. YUGOSLAVIA WAS REPORTED TO FEEL THAT MERELY AWARDED THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE TO THE REPRESENTATIVE OF A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY (GHANA) DOES NOT ADEQUATELY RECOGNIZE THE NON-ALIGNED ROLE. (COMMENT: AFTER RECEIVING THIS INFORMATION THE US REP TALKED WITH WYZNER, WHO SAID HE HAD TRIED TO DISCOURAGE THE YUGOSLAVS AND DID NOT THINK THEY WOULD MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT. DURING THE WESTERN GROUP MEETING ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 17 THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT ANY

SUCH ATTEMPT BY YUGOSLAVIA WOULD PROVE FUTILE, SINCE
BOTH THE WESTERN AND EASTERN GROUPS ARE SUPPORTING THE
CANADIAN CANDIDACY AND SINCE WHEN COMBINED THESE GROUPS
WILL CONSTITUTE A COMMANDING MAJORITY OF PARTIES ATTEND-
ING THE CONFERENCE. END COMMENT). SORENSON

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